

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD
From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair John Simon
Re: October 2002 meeting
Date: December 6, 2002

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met October 22, 2002 at Pizzeria Uno's on Maple Road. Present for the meeting were subcommittee members Simon, Boody, Cusack, and Titus, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

One Stop Shop

As the Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) is in the midst of its process, some concerns were addressed. It was mentioned that some in the economic development community don't seem to want to see this concept happen, while others feel our effort is stepping on the toes of other efforts. The inclusiveness and timeframe of our effort, however, sets it apart and makes it complementary to others. It was reiterated that we are looking either for a single one stop shop, or one for each county. Finally, it was mentioned that in order for it to work it may need to be housed at a neutral site, or be expanded beyond two counties. The subcommittee will continue to work with the EDWG and address any concerns.

Niagara Falls International Airport

As reported at the October ENRP general meeting, the NADC has released its proposal for the NFIA. It is felt that now is the time to make vocal support for the proposal. It was asked that people contact the NFTA, and especially Governor Pataki, as he will have some say as to the NFTA's decision. The Niagara County Legislature is close to passing a resolution in support of the NADC's proposal, at which time the Erie County Legislature will be asked to do the same.

Workforce Development

Subcommittee Member Daniel Boody talked of the strong ties between workforce development and economic development. He suggested that we need to look at creating standards for employers to meet in terms of labor, and that stricter responsible bidder language would be of use. We should also try to get apprenticeship standards adopted for both union and non-

union state approved projects. This concept will be further explored at future subcommittee meetings.

REDD

The REDD will continue to be housed at the UB Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth in 2003, following support for this scenario being given by the ENRP and the two Legislatures. The BNE will make a presentation in the near future to the other five Western New York counties in an effort to get them on board as well. It was mentioned that since the BNE is the main user of REDD, some participants want to see the BNE assume financial responsibility for it in the near future.

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included casino gaming and its corresponding labor shortage in Niagara Falls as people look to move to gaming jobs, light rail, and the Summit Park Mall sale and redevelopment.